

• Abroad •

Moscow. To military observers, the recall of 64-year-old Marshal Ivan Stepanovitch Konev from retirement to replace Colonel General Ivan Yukubovski as Soviet Supreme Commander in East Germany signifies that Khrushchev: a) is preparing to fight a conventional war, if it comes to fighting, over Berlin; b) considers absolute political reliability as essential as military talent in dealing with East Germany. Konev joined the Revolution at its outset, and commanded one of the famous armored trains in the Far East. In World War II, he led the first successful counterattack (at Kalinin, late in 1941), was subsequently commander in the Ukraine, and (in 1944) of the central front—where he met the U. S. armies on the Elbe. His military specialty is taking cities by cutting the approaches, usually through swift, oblique movements that achieve tactical surprise: as, in WWII, Znamensky, Pyatikhatka and Kirovgrad. Politically he has been one of Khrushchev's closest collaborators. He presided at the 1953 trial which condemned Beria to death, and directed the purge of Zhukov in 1957. Although of peasant origin, Konev learned both German and English, and has a notable library of books on military history. His hard jaws, shaven head and cold temperament have given him the nickname of "the tank," but he has always had close relations with his men—whom he calls "brothers," not "comrades."

London. As part of the Communist plan to internationalize the campaign against HUAC, 27 well-known Englishmen were induced to send a letter, two weeks ago, to Pres. Kennedy, calling on him to release Carl Braden and Frank Wilkinson from jail. Seven members of Parliament, writers C. Day Lewis and Compton Mackenzie, Prof. Ayer and Lord Faringdon were among those who signed the following comment on a pair of professional Communist agents: "Surely these men, like many others who have suffered similar persecution, are not acting in their own narrow interests, but are striving for all their fellow-Americans, to regain that . . . liberty which was theirs?"

Accra. Kwame Nkrumah was in Moscow last week, resting up from his friendship tour to Communist China, and his six weeks of intimate negotiations in other regions of the Communist sphere. His presence at home did not prove necessary to complete the formalities of the new \$45 million contract under which an Italian consortium will construct the first phase—370 foot dam, intake channels and powerhouse—of the great Volta hydroelectric project. It is not Italy, however, but a combine of the World Bank, the United States and Britain, that has advanced an initial hard currency credit of \$100 million toward the project's cost.

Lüneberg, West Germany. The highly-trained men of Lt. Col. Karl Wilhelm von Kleist's crack 84th Tank Battalion, who from Sept. 9-30 will conduct training exercises

in Wales, are being meticulously briefed on possible problems of this venture that both the German and the British commands know to be so critical for NATO's future. Will a British public be able to accept a revived "German militarism" when they see black-crossed panzers rolling over Welsh fields? A combine of ban-the-bombers, Communists and anti-Germans has been protesting the planned maneuvers ever since they were announced. The preventive indoctrination of the troops includes a rundown of Welsh customs and British rules of the road, a warning not to grimace when mint sauce is served with roast lamb, and a reminder to stand at attention when a band plays an old German hymn tune to which Britishers sing, "God save our gracious Queen . . ."



" . . . and I just want to make sure you're here to enjoy it."

Montreal. All Canadian observers agree with the *Montreal Star's* conclusion that with the founding of the New Democratic Party this month, "a new and powerful force has been developed on the left wing of Canadian politics." The NDP fuses the openly radical and socialist Cooperative Commonwealth Federation with the Canadian Labor Congress. The somewhat sobering influence of the labor bosses toned down the anti-NATO, pro-neutralist enthusiasm of the CCF, but CCF's T. C. Douglas, who as premier of Saskatchewan heads the only avowedly socialist government in North America, was named leader of the new party by acclamation. Douglas is a formidably popular figure. According to a rival, "Tommy Douglas doesn't have to kiss babies: they kiss him."

London. The *Times* recently carried the following ad: "Governess-housekeeper wanted for serene and happy household. You may as well know that we are Spiritualists and Occultists, Buddhist and Christian, and we want our children to be taught the Truth. Mother is a medium, Father a healer. We will sound insane to most who read this advertisement. We want the person to whom we sound refreshingly sane. Excellent salary. Please write in long-hand (we are also graphologists)."

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